

COMMUNITY COLLEGE COUNCIL (CCC) MEETING NOTES

Monday, June 9, 2014

2:00 –2:30 p.m.

Iowa Communications Network

Those in attendance included:

- ☐ Brooke Axiotis, CCC and State Board of Education Member
- ☐ Barbara Crittenden, President, Southwestern Community College; and CCC Member
- ☐ MJ Dolan, Executive Director, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees
- ☐ Kent Farver, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges
- ☐ Rosie Hussey, CCC and State Board of Education Member
- ☐ Mike Knedler, CCC and State Board of Education Member
- ☐ Moudy Nabulsi, Community College Trustee, Southeastern Community College, and CCC Member (via conference call)
- ☐ Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges
- ☐ Stephanie Weeks, Assistant to Jeremy Varner, Division of Community Colleges

I. Welcome and Introductions—Rosie Hussey, CCC Acting Chair (Due to ICN problems, Chair Mike Knedler was not available the first part of the meeting.)

Acting Chair Hussey called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Members and presenters introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Meeting Notes—Rosie Hussey

Acting Chair Hussey asked for approval of the notes of the April 30, 2014, meeting of the CCC.

Motion: Moudy Nabulsi moved and Barbara Crittenden seconded to approve the CCC notes as presented.

Action: The notes were passed unanimously by the CCC.

III. Division Updates—Jeremy Varner

New CCC Chair and State Board Members

Jeremy welcomed Brooke Axiotis and Mary Ellen Miller to the council. Dr. Knedler was selected to chair the council. Brooke is a Civil Rights Specialist with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. She resides in Des Moines and is active in a number of community organizations. Mary Ellen Miller currently serves as the Executive Director of 50-50 in 2020, an organization committed to increasing the participation of women in politics. She resides in the Mason City and Corydon area and has served on the board of North Iowa Area Community College, Hospice of North Iowa, League of Women Voters, and other organizations.

A work session regarding general community college discussion will take place at the August 7, 2014, meeting of the State Board of Education for new council and board members.

Voluntary Framework of Accountability

The Iowa Department of Education has partnered with the Iowa Association of Community College Presidents to implement the Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) — a national effort to report on two-year college institutional effectiveness. The framework was designed by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) to serve as an accountability framework for community colleges with success measures tailored for the sector. Developed “by community colleges, for community colleges,” the measures are defined to encompass the full breadth of the community college mission and diversity of students’ goals and educational experiences. Western Iowa Tech Community College was the first Iowa community college to pilot the VFA after being selected for the effort in 2011.

The statewide VFA initiative will provide the ability to benchmark student progress and completion data against peer institutions. The VFA has three parts: 1) measures of student progress and outcomes; 2) measures of workforce, economic, and community development; and 3) an approach for assessing student learning outcomes.

The division and community colleges are working together to implement the framework. A steering committee co-chaired by Western Iowa Tech Community College President Terry Murrell and Iowa Department of Education Division of Community Colleges Administrator Jeremy Varner has been established to set the direction and oversee the statewide implementation of the VFA. A working group has been established consisting of community college institutional researchers and division staff. Subcommittees have been formed to support credit, noncredit, and adult basic education reporting.

The steering committee established a goal to pilot credit data submission this fall with a cohort of volunteer institutions to test the data collection and exchange processes. This month, the department will survey pilot institutions to ensure readiness of volunteer institutions to participate in the pilot which is expected to result in public reporting in June 2015. The submission process will utilize fiscal year Management Information System (MIS) data supplemented by additional data elements provided by each community college.

The department will provide the MIS data to pilot community colleges for confirmation and for the addition of required elements not previously included in the MIS but necessary to comply with cohort requirements. The data will be returned to the division, processed, and submitted to the national VFA database upon approval from the community college. New elements will be added to MIS beginning fiscal year 2016, so only data prior to that fiscal year will be amended.

Following the pilot, the group will move towards full implementation for all 15 community colleges in the fall of 2015. The working group will explore different methods for communicating the stages of the process and provide updates on progress being made during implementation. The VFA includes voluntary non-credit and adult literacy data components, in addition to the credit metrics being initially piloted. Sub-committees have been formed to plan implementation of these measures. In June, the division will add a VFA page to its website in order to communicate updates and documentation concerning the data reporting process.

Update on the Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force

The third meeting of the Secondary Career Technical Education Task Force will take place on June 26 at the Des Moines Area Community College Center for Career and Professional Development at Southridge in Des Moines. The theme of the meeting was “*What Does High Quality CTE Look Like*”. Dr. Pradeep Kotamraju, Chief of the Bureau of Career and Technical Education, will discuss the changing role of CTE in educating students. Twenty-first century CTE is rooted at the intersection of high school redesign efforts, career pathways, and American competitiveness. In unison with the academic core, high quality CTE exposes students to various career pathways and prepares students to graduate from high school to be college and career ready. This is accomplished through rigorous standards, consistency in program quality, curricula aligned with workforce skills, and participation of business and industry.

If implemented correctly, a 21st century CTE program will align secondary and postsecondary programs leading to middle-skill occupations and help reduce skills shortages by responding to labor market needs. In addition to this discussion, the task force will discuss a structure to facilitate the crafting of the group’s recommendations.

IV. IACCT Update—MJ Dolan

- MJ noted that the Iowa Association of Community College Presidents (IACCP) held their annual retreat on June 3-5, 2014, at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo.
- A priority of IACCP is state general aid. The IACCP has been building good relationships with the Governor and the legislature.
- MJ also discussed the Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA), a nationally created measure by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). The presidents are working with the Department of Education and AACC. AACC staff will be coming to Iowa to meet with the community college presidents and the institutional researchers.

V. Rules: Chapter 27—Workforce Training and Economic Development Funds (Notice)—Jeremy Varner

It was recommended that the CCC move that the State Board of Education give public notice of its intent to adopt new Chapter 27 of the Iowa Administrative Code. In fiscal year 2014, the responsibility for administration and oversight of the workforce training and economic development fund was transferred from the Iowa Department of Economic Development Authority to the Iowa Department of Education. These new rules were created to provide guidance and to clarify the requirements of the workforce training and economic development fund.

Motion: Barbara Crittenden moved and Mike Knedler seconded to move that the State Board give public notice of the Chapter 27 rules.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.